



Childhood Connections

November 1, 2021

Attitude of Gratitude



Staff in the Office of Childhood recently decorated a bulletin board with “Attitude of Gratitude” as a reminder of our recent discussions about being helpful and grateful. Did you know an attitude of gratitude can reduce stress and negative feelings?

An attitude of gratitude is contagious – let’s catch it!

November is a time to be thankful for family, friends, and the good things in life. When my sons were young, we would make hand turkeys by tracing around their hands, drawing a face and legs to make a turkey, and writing something we are thankful for on each finger.

On my hand turkey this year, I’m especially thankful for the many stakeholders, providers, educators, and colleagues helping children and families every day. I’m thankful for their words of encouragement, constructive suggestions, and patience as we continue to learn and grow in the Office of Childhood. I hope you enjoy time with family and friends this Thanksgiving season.

Sincerely,
Pam Thomas
Assistant Commissioner, Office of Childhood

Child Care Relief Funds — Due Date Extended

The Office of Childhood is extending the due date for the [Paycheck Protection Program](#) relief funds for an additional 30 days, based on suggestions from stakeholders and input from child care providers.

The due date for Paycheck Protection Program applications is now Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at 11:59 p.m.

The time frame for allowable expenses is January 1, 2021, to June 30, 2021. Your application must be received before the due date; there will be no additional extensions for this time period. See Section 2 of the [Paycheck Protection Program](#)



Developmental Screening Training- Date Added for Early Care and Education Professionals

Due to high demand, an additional Ages and Stages Questionnaire training date has been added to the 2021 training calendar. Earn three clock hours and receive a free copy of the

[Terms & Conditions](#) for more details on allowable and unallowable expenditures

If you need to check on the status of your application, you can email ChildCareRelief@dese.mo.gov.

Infant Safe Sleep Awareness Public Service Announcement



Created in partnership with Children's Trust Fund

As a mother and grandmother, [First Lady Teresa Parson](#) spent a lot of her life caring for her children and grandchildren. For October, Infant Safe Sleep Awareness Month, she shares the ABC's of safe sleep with all parents and caregivers.

Whether you're a grandparent, aunt, or uncle, it's important that all caretakers stay informed as their loved ones ask for advice about infant care. Be sure to promote the ABC's of infant safe sleep: babies sleep safest Alone, on their Backs, and in a Crib for nighttime, naptime, and every time.

Learn more about safe sleep practices at the [Safe Sleep Missouri website](#).

Child Care Subsidy Providers — Child Absences

Due to the increasing number of COVID absences from September 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021, the Office of Childhood will pay for additional absences through your typical monthly subsidy payment. Providers will need to enter the child(ren) as absent in the CCBIS system for any day they are not in attendance. All absences will be paid for children enrolled in the child care subsidy program through the end of the year.

screening kit by attending this no-cost virtual training on Tuesday, November 16. View the flyer to [register and learn more](#).

Training For Families

Protective factors are strengths and resources that families draw upon during difficult times. Protective factors help promote optimal development by helping families succeed and thrive, even in the face of risks and challenges. In this no-cost training parents will learn, ideas for increasing your "connection" with your child, strategies to deal with challenging behaviors, and tips for "bouncing back" from life's stressors. View the flyer to [register and learn more](#).

Training and Professional Development Opportunity

The [Institute for the Advancement of Family Support Professionals](#) offers home visiting professionals the opportunity to learn new skills and to continue growing in their careers. This resource provides engaging online modules, a personalized learning map, and [Rapid Response Virtual Home Visiting](#) recorded webinars. The modules and webinars cover a variety of topics and, include helpful resources. All Institute

If your program received a payment for children who are no longer attending your program, or did not attend on the date(s) paid, please complete a [Payment Resolution Request](#) form identifying the adjustment needed. You can send the completed Payment Resolution Request form to: CCPayments@dese.mo.gov

First Steps Background Screening/Fingerprint Changes

As of November 1, 2021, the registration code for [background screening/fingerprinting](#) for First Steps enrollment has changed. The new Missouri Automated Criminal History Site (MACHS) registration code is **8918**.

Request for Stakeholder Engagement — First Steps Annual Performance Report

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) established the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR). The SPP/APR is a series of “indicators” designed to measure results for children and families served in Missouri’s Part C early intervention program known as First Steps. The Office of Childhood is engaging with Missouri stakeholders to set annual targets or goals for these indicators, analyze data, develop improvement strategies, and evaluate progress. A series of focus groups will be conducted to share information with stakeholders and gather their feedback. [Register](#) by November 30 if you would like to participate in a focus group.

Save the Date

DESE hosts an annual Conference on the Young Years (CYY) that provides professional development opportunities to all professionals who serve children birth to third grade. CYY will be held virtually March 10-11, 2022, at no cost to participants. We will share more details about this event on the [Office of Childhood website](#) and in future editions of Childhood Connections.

Stakeholder Engagement Report

Missouri stakeholders and leaders came together with [The Hunt Institute](#) in the spring and summer of 2021 to develop recommendations for ongoing engagement with the Office of Childhood (OOC) with the goal of

modules are based on the National Core Competency Framework.

Kindergarten Entry Assessment Pilot

The Office of Childhood recently completed a Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA) Pilot. Visit the Office of Childhood website for more information about [school readiness tools](#) and the KEA [Pilot](#).

Child Care Background Check Website

Calling all child care providers: If you haven’t already, please visit and bookmark the child care [background check process webpage](#). Here you can find important announcements, steps for completing a comprehensive criminal background check, required forms, and responses to frequently asked questions.

Lights on Afterschool

Each year, afterschool programs, stakeholders, and champions celebrate the important role that afterschool programs play in the lives of children, youth, and families. Watch this great [Missouri Lights On Afterschool video](#) featuring Governor Mike Parson.

ensuring meaningful participation within its decision-making processes. To achieve this goal, leaders held numerous meetings, focus groups, and survey activities to unite all early childhood and afterschool stakeholders to provide the OOC with comprehensive feedback and recommendations for [Early Childhood and Afterschool Stakeholder Engagement](#).

Proposed Rule Changes — Comment Period

The Office of Childhood filed its first series of rule changes with the Secretary of State's office and Joint Committee on Administrative Rules. Child care providers and stakeholders are encouraged to review the proposed rule changes on the [Rules & Laws webpage](#) and complete a [brief survey](#) to submit comments.

As a reminder, the proposed rules **do not** include changes that would affect the current day-to-day practices of child care providers or departmental staff. The proposed rules update the department name to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and update outdated terminology and forms within rules.

Spotlight on Success

Spotlight on Success aims to share stories from local programs who are building community partnerships in order to strengthen and coordinate childhood programs.



Left to Right: Cindy Martin, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education; Kiara Fite & Tami Timmer, Flance Early Learning Center/Photo Courtesy of Flance Early Learning Center

This month's Spotlight on Success is on [Flance Early Learning Center](#) in St. Louis. Flance Early Learning Center was honored with a 2021 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Award. This award acknowledges Flance's commitment to sustainable practices and leadership in facilities, health, and

environmental education. Flance is the only school in Missouri to receive this honor in 2021 and one out of three early learning centers to be recognized in the United States.

Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) Update



The Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5) provides funding over three years to coordinate a more effective, high-quality early childhood system that better prepares Missouri children for success.

Each month the Office of Childhood hosts a live webinar to provide updates and information about the PDG B-5 to stakeholders. A [recording](#) and the [PowerPoint slides](#) from the most recent webinar are available in case you are unable to attend and wish to hear the information.

A [PDG B-5 dashboard](#) is also updated monthly. This dashboard provides an at-a-glance look at priority areas, budget status, and key accomplishments.

Save the Date — Mark Your Calendars Now!

Join us for the next PDG B-5 Stakeholder webinar on Tuesday, November 30, from noon to 12:45 p.m. to learn more and ask questions. You can [access the webinar](#) in a Google Chrome or Safari web browser. Do not view in Internet Explorer. We hope you can participate.

Archived Editions of Childhood Connections

Visit the Office of Childhood website to find [previous editions](#) of the Childhood Connections.

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